

Great Valley School District

School Board Business Meeting Highlights

April 20, 2026

From the Office of the School Board Secretary



To view presentations and attachments, please view the [agenda](#) on BoardDocs.

The April 20, 2026 Business Meeting

The April 20, 2026 business meeting was called to order by President Rachel Gallegos. **Board members present:** Tricia Bliven-Chasinoff, Stacey Kahan, Neha Mehta, Lorie Sollenberger, Andrea Rizzo, Becky Speiss, and Thomas Richards. **Absent:** Wendy Litzke.

Recognition

Kira Garrett and Shannon Maroney-Garrett from Neighbors in Black and White recognized nine students who participated in the Black History Month Poster Contest. The students who were recognized are Pranavi Jonnalagadda, Lucia Mignogna, Hanna Fedeyko, Sid Ghatta, Santiago Siguenza Cabrera, Aliza Momin, Kylie Bishop, Reyansh Karatha, and Riaan Singh Yadav.

Dr. Capetola, Great Valley High School Principal, recognized Ms. Katie Domizio, a high school choir teacher, as the recipient of the Delaware Valley Excellence in Teaching Award.

Dr. Goffredo shared that Mr. Connor Tabak, a middle school teacher, received the Citadel Heart of Learning Award.

Student Council Reports

The student council representatives from K. D. Markley Elementary School shared that by selling snacks at various events, they raised over \$150 for the People's Panty. The school shared that they made Valentine's Day Cards for the Veranes Association in Coatesville, and the students exceeded their goal of collecting 100 personal care items, gathering over 270. Lastly, it was shared that the Spring Fair is scheduled for May 15.

Student Representative to the Board

Anna Xiao, a High School Student Representative to the School Board, shared an update that the Student Body officers for the 2026-2027 school year have been elected. The club GV Best Buddies is leading a competition in honor of Autism Awareness Month. The monies collected will support the GV Best Buddies club and the Eagles Autism Foundation. Anna lastly shared that the Chorale Concert, the Student Achiever's Banquet, and AP exams are coming up at the High School.

Executive Session

Ms. Gallegos stated that the Board met in executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Secretary's Correspondence

Ms. Gallegos asked Mrs. McGibboney if there was any Secretary's Correspondence. There was none.

Chester County Intermediate Unit Report

Dr. Rizzo reported that the new IU Child and Career Development Center, Great Valley campus building, is still scheduled to open for the Fall of 2026. She also shared that all state tests will be online moving forward.



Legislative Report

Ms. Chasinoff reported that during the March 25 meeting, the legislative committee discussed various proposed bills, including a requirement for cursive writing to be taught, the removal of the requirement to post changes to Board Meetings in a newspaper, the display of the POW/MIA Flag, and the notification of parents if their student is bullied.

Learning and Innovation Committee

Ms. Gallegos shared that during the April 13, 2026, meeting, the committee discussed the transition to Validate Me, the homework policy, the student information system update, and the next meeting is scheduled for May 18.

Policy Committee Report

Ms. Gallegos shared that the next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2026.

Finance Committee Report

Ms. Gallegos shared that the next meeting is scheduled for May 4, 2026.

Communications Committee Meeting

Ms. Gallegos shared that the next meeting is scheduled for May 12, 2026. Dr. Goffredo shared that during the April 9 meeting, the annual goals update was shared, a parent key communicator update was given, and an update for digital accessibility, which is required for ADA compliance, was shared.

Facilities Committee Meeting

Ms. Gallegos shared that the meeting that was scheduled for April 23, 2026, will be rescheduled for a later date.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Goffredo, the superintendent, shared some of the events that have occurred across the district. One of the events was Art Goes to School, a district-wide traveling art museum for elementary schools. Dr. Goffredo also reported that the 5/6 Center activity bus has begun running, the legislative breakfast took place on April 17, and lastly, Dr. Goffredo shared the April HEART Award winners.

Dr. Wexler, an assistant superintendent, reported on the progress of the year three equity plan. Some of the main points that Dr. Wexler shared were Family and Community Engagement, Engaging in Self-Reflection and Personal Learning, and Hiring and Retention. Dr. Wexler then shared that the Equity plan will continue, with policy updates and ongoing expansion of restorative practices training. The Board then asked Dr. Wexler questions about the equity plan.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

There were no public comments regarding other agenda items.

Consent Agenda Items

The board voted 8 to 0 to approve the following Consent Agenda Items:

Routine Approvals

Minutes of March 19, 2026 Business Meetings
Treasurer's Report and Tax Collector's Report
Invoices



Consent Agenda Items
(continued)

Program Approvals*Middle School Overnight Trips*

Great Valley Middle School Gifted Support, 2026 National Championships Tournament for Quiz Bowl; Chicago, IL, for 6 students to attend in May 2026. Approximately 1460 miles round trip; Funding through the school budget and parents; District will cover the chaperone's travel, meals, and substitute teacher for 2 days.

Great Valley Middle School, MATHCOUNTS National Competition; Lake Buena Vista (Orlando), FL, for 1 student to attend in May 2026. Approximately 1960 miles roundtrip; Funding is provided by Mathcounts for the student; District will cover the chaperone's travel and meals (no substitute teachers are needed).

Great Valley High School TSI Non-Title 1 School Plan

Facilities Approvals

Proposal submitted by Weatherproofing Technologies, Inc. for roof restoration of the General Wayne Elementary School for \$2,152,491.78 to be paid by Capital Reserve Funds.

Purchase of 4 external security cameras from Triangle Communications for 41 Moores Road for the amount of \$75,495 under the terms and conditions of the CO-STARs contract, to be paid with 2025-26 School Safety & Mental Health Grant funds

Technology Approvals

Purchase of 23 replacement Kajeet wireless access hot spots at a cost of \$1,174.77.

Infinite Campus quote for 5 additional consulting hours to assist with setting up Canvas with Infinite Campus at a cost of \$4,375

Infinite Campus quote for 5 additional consulting hours to assist with setting up authentication methods for students, staff, and families with Infinite Campus at a cost of \$875

Burrow Library Pilot Proposal at a cost of \$1,130 to be paid by the Pennsylvania Ready to Learn Grant

CESA (Cooperative Educational Service Agency) 6 Qualtrics training quote at a total cost of \$2,100.

Curriculum Associates quote for 14 months of Ellevation Essential to assist EL teachers with student data tracking, at a cost of \$27,480.

Financial Approvals

Preliminary budget resolution, which will include a 3.5% increase in the real estate tax. Under this preliminary budget, the millage rate would increase from 25.22 mills to 26.10 mills

Property Tax Rebate Program through the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue for eligible community members for the 2026-2027 fiscal year

Awarding of the bids for the 2026-2027 school year, at a total cost of \$32,602.97. Art: Kurtz Bros for \$10,455 and WB Mason for \$3,403.01. Medical and Athletic Trainer Equipment: School Health for \$6,473.19. Paper Supplies: Kurtz Bros for \$12,271.77.

Chester County Intermediate Unit Core Budget for \$50,220 and Occupational Budget for \$1,150,710 resolutions for 2026-2027 Validate Me! contract agreement from March 20, 2026 to June 30, 2026 at a total cost of \$3,000

K.D. Markley Grade 2 students are scheduled to walk to the East Whiteland Firehouse for a tour, at no cost to students and chaperones.

Approval of the Pennsylvania College of Art & Design Memorandum of Understanding / Individual Student Agreement from April 20, 2026 to July 1, 2027

Contract with LearnWell for student 340044 for a student admitted into Bradley Hospital - Intensive Program for OCD and Anxiety Disorders - Unit 1. Ten hours of educational services are provided per week at the rate of \$57.95 per hour

Contract with CHOP for student 270681, who was admitted on 3/9/2026 at a cost of \$66.59/hour for up to 5 hours/week

Contract with CHOP for student 260476, who was admitted on 1/27/2026 at a cost of \$66.59/hour for up to 5 hours/week

Personnel Approvals

The board voted 8 to 0 to approve the following Personnel Items:

ResignationsProfessional Staff

Donna Ahern, Grade 5 teacher, the Great Valley 5/6 Center, for the purpose of retirement, effective at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Connor Tabak, Special Education teacher, Great Valley Middle School, effective May 29, 2026.

Jamie Puglielli, Special Education teacher, General Wayne Elementary School, effective August 14, 2026.

Support Staff

Stephen O’Krepki, HVAC Mechanic, Great Valley School District, for the purpose of retirement, effective July 1, 2026.

Shelby Fanning, Full-time Custodian, Great Valley 5/6 Center, effective April 17, 2026.

Administrative Staff

Joanna Wexler, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Great Valley School District, effective June 30, 2026.

LeavesProfessional Staff

Employee #996637, Sugartown/Charlestown/K. D. Markley Elementary School, requests FMLA from approximately May 14, 2026 to June 1, 2026.

Employee #774397, General Wayne Elementary School, requests Sabbatical Leave for Restoration of Health during the 2026-2027 school year.

Employee #289891, Great Valley Middle School, requests intermittent FMLA from January 5, 2026 to October 9, 2026.

Employee # 755453, Sugartown Elementary School, requests FMLA from August 18, 2026 to November 9, 2026.

AppointmentsProfessional Staff

Erin Craig, ESY (Extended School Year), Center Based Elementary Instructor, K. D. Markley Elementary School, effective approximately June 22, 2026, (pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).

Francesca DeBellis, ESY (Extended School Year), Center Based Elementary Instructor, K. D. Markley Elementary School, effective approximately June 22, 2026, (pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).

Jennifer Osinski, ESY (Extended School Year), Center Based Elementary Instructor, K. D. Markley Elementary School, effective approximately June 22, 2026, (pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).

Gabriella DePalmo, ESY (Extended School Year), Autistic and Emotional Support/Itinerant Social and Coping Skills Instructor, the Great Valley 5/6 Center, effective approximately June 22, 2026, (pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).

Kurt Miller, ESY (Extended School Year), Building Substitute, the Great Valley 5/6 Center, effective approximately June 22, 2026, (pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).

Casey Craven, ESY (Extended School Year), Building Substitute, the Great Valley 5/6 Center, effective approximately June 22, 2026, (pending completion of all administrative and legal requirements and contingent on satisfactory background checks).

Salary AdjustmentsHomebound Instructors

Erin Jochym

Thomas Juelke

Ayssa DeMitis

Heather Cain

Joseph Bradley

Meghan Daney

Emily O’Connor

Yvonne Bauer

Jaclyn Wesley

Megan Druckenmiller



Personnel Approvals
(continued)

Salary Adjustments – continued

EDR (Extra Duty Responsibility) Post-Season Play, Great Valley High School

Winter Track

Andrew Le, 7 days, NF

Nicole Jones, 8 days, F

Chris Johnston, 10 days, NF

Stan Walerski, 6 days, F

Summer Services

Infinite Campus Turnkey Training, 5 hours each

Kathleen Ayers

Sarah Gorr

Ava Rhodes

Katy Uhrich

Paige Calfapietra

Kristin Keating

Eric Schmidt

Julie Wagner

Alyssa DeMitis

Jamie Keefer

James Simpkins

ESY Speech Therapists

Maria Stamato

ESY Aides, 6/29/26 – 8/6/26, 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday

Darrah Sessoms

Cathy Bertanzetti

Kiki Guse

Staff Conference Requests

2026 PMEA State Conference & Festivals, Pocono Manor, PA, Friday, April 23, 2026, through Saturday, April 25, 2026

Alexander Siwa, Great Valley High School.

Public Comments – Other Items

The following community members made public comments on other items:

B. Graeff – TCHS grading practices as it aligns with GVHS courses

J. Adams – 5/6 Center classroom assignments

S. Clif – 5/6 Center to Middle School transition process

M. Carbo – School iPads usage at home

S. Silverio – 5/6 Center classroom assignments

S. Lawrence – AI integration within the school district

Other Board Comments

Dr. Rizzo shared positive feedback on the High School play from last weekend. She also asked for clarity on the process of renting district facilities.

Ms. Gallegos expressed her appreciation for Dr. Cohen and the many teachers and staff members who continue to dedicate long hours to making the district a better place.

Adjournment

Seeing no further comments or questions, the board voted 8 to 0 to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.